

What is claimed is:

1. A method for tracking samples of a clinical study, comprising:  
defining a first clinical study protocol comprising a plurality of procedures, wherein  
said procedures comprise steps;

accessioning samples for said first clinical study protocol by recording in a database  
5 identifying information for said samples and identification of said first clinical study;

creating a worklist by assigning a particular scientist to perform a particular  
procedure on particular samples;

creating a checklist comprising steps of at least one procedure to be performed on the  
samples of a worklist;

10 performing said steps of said checklist; and

recording in said database completion and results of at least a portion of said steps  
on said checklist.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising conducting the steps of said  
method with regard to a second clinical study protocol, wherein said step of accessioning  
samples includes associating at least a first sample with said first clinical study protocol and  
at least a second sample with said second clinical study protocol, and wherein at least one  
5 worklist assigned to a particular scientist comprises at least one sample associated with said  
first clinical study protocol and at least a second sample associated with said second clinical  
study protocol.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of indicating completion and results  
of at least a portion of said steps on said checklist comprises indicating completion of at least  
one step for all samples on a checklist by one entry of information.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of said procedures determines  
the genotype of an individual.

5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising formalization of said results by  
an activity selected from the group consisting of: inspection of results; inspection of chain  
of custody records; entry of new results; inspection of procedures run; and modification and  
rejection of erroneous results.

6. A computer implemented method for tracking samples of a clinical study, comprising the steps of:

providing a computer having an associated memory;

providing a list of standard operating procedures, wherein each of said standard operating procedures comprise procedure steps;

providing a list of samples; and

merging said list of standard operating procedures with said list of samples to generate a check list for use in connection with said clinical study, wherein said list of standard operating procedure, said list of samples and said checklist are all stored in said computer memory.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein at least one of said procedures determines the genotype of an individual.

8. A computer implemented method for tracking samples of a clinical study, comprising:

providing a computer;

accessioning a plurality of samples, wherein identifying information is stored in said computer;

determining procedures to be taken with respect to said samples, wherein said procedures comprise a plurality of steps;

defining at least a first workgroup comprising at least a first of said plurality of samples, wherein said first workgroup comprises at least one procedure, and wherein said workgroup is stored in said computer;

preparing at least one checklist comprising said at least a first workgroup and said steps comprising said at least one procedure, wherein said checklist is stored in said computer;

performing said steps; and

recording performance of said steps in said computer.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein at least one of said procedures determines the genotype of an individual.